

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 IO-13 DHA-02 CU-02 ERDA-05
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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR PL US UR
SUBJECT: POLISH PRESS REACTION TO BREZHNEV AND CARTER SPEECHES

1. TRYBUNA LUDU OF MARCH 23 CARRIED AN EDITORIAL BY ZBIGNIEW
LESNIKOWSKI ENTITLED " IN THE INTEREST OF ALL PEOPLES", WHICH
PRAISED THE "SERIOUS, WELL BALANCED TONE" OF LEONID BREZHNEV'S
SPEECH TO THE 16TH TRADE UNION CONGRESS MARCH 21. LESNIKOWSKI
EMPHASIZED THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON FURTHER SOVIET-AMERICA
N
COOPERATION, PARTICULARLY ARMS LIMITATION. HE REPEATED
BREZHNEV'S CRITICISM OF "WESTERN COLD-WAR
ACTIVISTS", BUT IGNORED BREZHNEV'S WARNING TO DOMESTIC
DISSIDENTS.

2. IN THE SAME EDITION OF TRYBUNA LUDU, THE POLISH PRESS
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AGENCY REPORTED THAT AMERICAN REACTION TO BREZHNEV'S
SPEECH WAS "OPTIMISTIC." IT QUOTED SECRETARY VANCE AS
SAYING THAT NUCLEAR-ARMS CONTROL WAS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE
IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND THAT EXISTING DIFFERENCES
OF OPINION SHOULD NOT DISTURB THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE MOSCOW
TALKS.

3. AS THE DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE SEEN FROM FBIS, THE ONLY POLISH COMMENTARY SO FAR ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPEECH TO THE U.N. WAS PAP CORRESPONDENT ZBIGNIEW BONIECKI'S SHORT, FACTUAL REPORT WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN THE INSIDE PAGES OF THE MARCH 19-20 EDITIONS OF TRYBUNA LUDU AND ZUCIE WARSZAWY. BONIECKI HIGHLIGHTED THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENT THAT THE 500-PERCENT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF NUCLAER WARHEADS OVER THE PAST EIGHT YEARS HAS NOT INCREASED EITHER SOVIET OR AMERICAN SECURITY. BONIECKI ALSO WROTE THAT THE PRESIDENT REPEATED "THE WELL-KNOWN POSITION OF THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION IN THE QUESTION OF "PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS' ", REFERRING PRINCIPALLY TO FOREIGN COUNTIRES, ALTHOUGH ADMITTING THAT BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS WERE NOT ALWAYS RESPECTED IN THE UNITED STATES.

4. COMMENT: WHILE CLEARLY HOPING FOR THE BEST, THE POLISH PRESS HAS ADOPTED A "WAIT-AND-SEE" POSITION ATTITUDE SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, WHICH INCLUDES DOWNPLAYING BILATERAL DISAGREEMENTS PRECEDING THE SECRETARY'S TRIP TO THE SOVIET UNION. END COMMENT.
DAVIES

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